

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 AID-20 AGR-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SBAR

SUBJECT: PRESS STORY ON US DOMESTIC OPIUM PRODUCTION PLAN

1. MAY 5 NY TIMES STORY HEADLINED: "US STUDIES PLAN TO GROW OPIUM" CARRIED WIRELESS FIELE MAY 7.

2. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE ON "IF ASKED" BASIS:

Q. WHAT IS THE CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION OF OPIUM FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES?

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A. IN ITS 1973 REPORT THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (WHICH HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TREATY FOR VERIFYING OPIUM SUPPLIES AND REQUIREMENTS) MADE THE ASSESSMENT THAT WHEREAS THE 1973 OPIUM PRODUCTION SCHEDULE WOULD NOT IN ITSELF SUFFICE TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR MEDICAL USE, THE 1974 SCHEDULE MIGHT LEAD TO EQUILIBRIUM. THE BOARD CONCLUDED THAT IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN MEDICINAL REQUIREMENTS RESULTING FROM THE EXTENSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, IT WOULD BE WISE TO EXAMINE THE FUTURE PLANNING OF NORMAL RESOURCES OF RAW MATERIALS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE NOT ONLY FOR MEETING CURRENT REQUIREMENTS BUT ALSO FOR THE NECESSITY OF REBUILDING STOCKS TO SAFE LEVELS. THE BOARD WILL KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER STUDY AND THE UN COMMISSION

ON NARCOTIC DRUGS WILL CONSIDER THE SITUATION AGAIN AT ITS 1975 MEETING. THE UNITED STATES' ANALYSIS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND SUPPORTS THE BOARD'S ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSIONS. OUR OWN MANUFACTURERS HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY OBTAINING SUPPLIES OF OPIUM.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES INTEND TO GROW OPIUM FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION?

A. NO. THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO MEET ITS DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS THROUGH IMPORTS.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES PROPOSE TO DO RESEARCH ON OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. THE UNITED STATES IS PARTICIPATING IN AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH ON THE MOST EFFICIENT AND SAFE WAYS TO PRODUCE OPIATES FROM THE OPIUM POPPY (PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM) UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS, WHICH THE NARCOTICS LABORATORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS IS CONDUCTING AND COORDINATING. THE DETAILS OF U.S. PARTICIPATION HAVE YET TO BE DETERMINED BUT WE DO NOT NOW PLAN TO PLANT POPPIES FOR SUCH RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES. RUSH

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